

09/29/82

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Delivery of U-2 Aircraft to National Air  
& Space Museum

1. This memorandum contains two options for the DDCI. These are contained in the final paragraph.

2. As an outgrowth of the stated objective of the former DDCI to examine the possibilities for declassifying portions of the U-2 Program, I recommended to him in December 1981 that a surplus U-2 be provided to the Air & Space Museum for public exhibition. The Museum had been trying for several years to obtain a U-2, and their reception of the idea was very favorable, as was that of the former Chief of Air Staff whose concurrence was received in January, 1982.

3. Funding for rehabilitation of the aircraft was jointly provided by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and Pratt & Whitney Group of United Technologies. Preservation rework began in July and the aircraft itself, together with a J-57 engine, is now en route to Washington where the aircraft will be reassembled and exhibited at the Paul E. Garber Facility of the Air & Space Museum in Silver Hill, Maryland. Reassembly should be complete by Labor Day.

4. At one time it had been planned, with the former DDCI's concurrence, to fly the aircraft to Andrews AFB from California, and to have a presentation ceremony there which would have involved principal Air Force and Agency officials and selected members of Congress. Flying the aircraft back involved too many considerations of liability and expense to make this plan feasible. A formal turnover ceremony at the Garber Facility was then projected but steps were not taken to implement it.


5. In view of the imminent arrival, assembly and display of the aircraft, there appear to be two courses of action that might be followed, as far as the Agency's participation in the actual presentation is concerned. These are:

- (A) Simply allow the aircraft to go on display without any formal presentation ceremony at all. The Air & Space Museum people have no hard and fast rules requiring ceremonies, but would cooperate if one is desired.

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(B) Have a brief ceremony at the Garber Facility, with the Agency represented by former employees and Air Force represented by personnel from RDPJ in the Pentagon, which is the Project Office for U-2s and SR-71s, and with whom the aircraft release and preservation has been coordinated since early this year. I also propose a brief press statement, to be coordinated with Air Force and the Museum officials, which would focus primarily on the history of this particular aircraft (Article 347, the seventh built) and giving general aircraft performance characteristics, 95% of which are already in the public domain.

No matter which course of action is chosen, the time will come when the media will make enquiries of the Agency regarding the U-2 on exhibit. I will be glad to work with the Public Affairs Office in developing an information sheet that would, in turn be coordinated with the Director of Security and with RDPJ personnel in the Pentagon.

  
James A. Cunningham Jr.

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OPTION 5 (A) Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

OPTION 5 (B) Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

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Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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Date